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degree. Finally, it would appear that the course of development was shaped at each stage by the survival of the fittest among the groups, under the conditions by which they were severally environed; and it may be noted that vestigeal traces of all of the primitive stages, especially of the later, may be perceived in the modern conjugal system of exoteric monogamy, with sequential plurality of consorts and esoteric promiscuity.

Summarizing the tendencies revealed in this history, it would appear that the course of evolution has been from the simple to the complex, from the definite to the indefinite, from the general to the special, from the fixed to the variable, from the involuntary to the voluntary, from the mechanical to the spontaneous, from the provincial to the cosmopolitan, or, in brief, from the chiefly biotic to the wholly demotic.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS

*The Natives of Sarawak and British North Borneo.* By Henry Ling Roth. Two volumes, large 8°, pp. 464-540. Over 550 illustrations, and map. London, Truslove & Hanson; New York, Truslove & Comba. Price, £3 (\$15).

In these two large and admirably printed volumes we have a laborious and excellent presentation of all the anthropological material known of the native tribes of North Borneo—the Dyaks, Malays, Sarawaks, etc. Much of it is from unpublished sources, especially the notes of H. B. Low, who possessed an intimate knowledge of the natives, and those of Archdeacon Perham, who had lived among them as a missionary. Much of it, also, is translated from Dutch sources not likely to come to the knowledge of the English reader, and from other out-of-the-way authorities.

Mr Andrew Lang contributes a preface in his usual cheery vein, and the numerous well-printed engravings and photogravures render the volumes highly attractive to the eye. The author examines all the features of native life. He begins with the always indispensable geographical information about their location, passes to their physical traits, refers to their character, their families, and marriage ties, the disposal of the dead, their religion, medicine men, legends, daily life, agriculture, hunting and fishing. This occupies the first volume.

In it the two chapters on religion are noteworthy for the original myths and chants they contain. These were collected by Archdeacon Perham, and are printed in the native dialects, with translations. Several of them refer to the mysterious and all-pervading power which the Sea Dyaks speak of as *Petara*, and of whom they sing that he was:

Patu, nadai apai,  
Endang nadai indai.

An orphan, without father,  
Even without mother.

To define this belief, whether monotheistic or polytheistic, distinctly puzzles the Archdeacon, for they say of superior men, "They are *petara*," and, again, that every man has his own *petara*.

This is precisely as the Polynesians employ the term *mania*; the Quichuas, *huaca*; the Sioux, *wakan*, etc, signifying "the Divine," which may or may not be individualized, but exists as the essence of nature. The legends given are curious and suggestive, but in some the influence of India is unmistakable. In fact, it may be said of the Dyak mythology that it is deeply colored with foreign additions, and further studies are necessary to determine what portions of it are truly indigenous and ethnic.

The legends quoted relate to the creation and the deluge, the origin of the tribes, animal stories, about water and mountain spirits, and one very entertaining piece, "The story of the Ancient Traveler whose coming is unknown," which narrates the war raid of their legendary hero Klieng to the skies.

The second volume deals with the habitations and arts of weaving, dyeing, and dressing; painting and tatooing; wars, weapons, and the famous "head-hunting;" their poisons; slaves, sacrifices, and cannibalism; their government and useful arts; music, language, and archeology. To this is subjoined in an appendix a large number of vocabularies and ethnographical notes.

There is no doubt the natives were at one time cannibals, but the habit has fallen so much into disuse that scarcely an European can be mentioned who professes to have witnessed it.

It has been often stated that the Dyaks have an ancient and peculiar alphabet in which they write their records. This has not been supported by Mr Roth's scrutiny of the evidence. The

characters found on their weapons and on rocks in their territory are of Indian provenance.

With regard to the archeology of the island, no signs of an extremely ancient or paleolithic population have been discovered. The caves have been explored and yielded human bones and implements, but only of cultural types and associated with recent fauna.

The dialects vary considerably, but are plainly Malayan. Some of them are intermediate between pure Malay and the Polynesian languages.

The tattooing is often of singular delicacy and symmetry. The designs figured, page 88, are elaborate and graceful. A similar sense of harmony is visible in the ornaments and the decorations of costumes.

This admirable treatise cannot fail to be appreciated highly by all students of the ethnology of the native races of the world.

D. G. BRINTON.

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*The History of Mankind.* By Professor Friedrich Ratzel. Translated from the second German edition by A. J. Butler, M. A., with introduction by E. B. Tylor, D. C. L., F. R. S. Vol. I. London, Macmillan & Co., Limited (New York, The Macmillan Co.), 1896. 8°, xxiv, 486 pp., plates and figures. Price, \$4.

This is one of the most important contributions to English anthropologic literature that has been made in recent years; not that the work is an exposition of new discoveries relating to the science of man—for like Wood, Brown, Prichard, Latham, Waitz, and other anthropologists the author deals largely with facts gleaned and published by others—but the contrast between the old and the new is so great that one is surprised by the completeness and beauty of this first volume of Dr Ratzel's English edition.

There is not sufficient space to give an extended account of this new work, which is translated by Mr A. J. Butler from the second German edition of 1894-'95. This first volume contains an introduction by Professor E. B. Tylor, the great English anthropologist, the body of the work being devoted to (Book I) the Principles of Ethnography and (Book II) the American Pacific Group of Races. Book I (129 pp.) comprises: (1) The task of